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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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HAY AND PASTURE REPORT AS OF MAY 1, 1940.

HAY: The May 1 condition of tame hay is reported as 80 percent of normal compared with a 10-year average of 78 percent and with 81 percent a year ago. Alfalfa and other tame hays have made very good growth west of the Rocky Mountains, but in most central and eastern States the development of tame hay crops has been retarded by the cold, late spring. Reported May 1 condition is however, above average in nearly all States north and west of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The situation is less promising farther east where May 1 condition is generally below the 10-year average. In the eastern Cotton Belt the condition of tame hay on May 1 is not very significant because much of the hay crop is made from lespedeza, and from cowpeas and other summer legumes.

Stocks of old hay on farms on May 1, 1940, are about 10,865,000 tons, or 5½ million tons less than on May 1, 1939, but nearly 2 million tons more than the 10-year (1929-38) average.

The heavy farm carry-over of old hay on May 1, 1939 and the big 1939 crop provided a large supply of hay last fall, but farm disappearance has been heavy during the winter. Large quantities of hay were used in the East and in much of the Mississippi Valley because of the hard winter and late spring and in the Southwest because of the lack of the usual wheat pasturage. In the Rocky Mountains and Far Western States the winter was generally mild and hay feeding was light. The present (May 1) farm stocks of hay are near or above average in most States, but are below average in an area centering in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma and another area extending from New England to Kentucky and Tennessee.

PASTURES: With rapid growth of grass west of the Continental Divide offset by delayed development in eastern portions of the country where moisture conditions indicate favorable prospects, farm pastures on May 1 were only about average but showed possibilities for material improvement during the next month. For the country as a whole the condition of pastures averaged 74 percent of normal compared with 76 percent on May 1 a year ago and an average of 74.4 percent for the date during the 10-year period 1929-38. The condition of western ranges averaged 84 percent compared with 78 percent last year and a 10-year average of 80 percent.

During April considerable improvement in pastures was noted in the belt of States extending from Montana and South Dakota southeastward to the Gulf, where pastures a month ago were reported in poor condition. Moisture supplies in these States were much improved by April rains. Lack of moisture, however, is still a limiting factor in western Kansas, south central and southwestern Nebraska, eastern Colorado, the Panhandle territory, southern Texas, and much of New Mexico.

(over)

ALL HAY				TAME HAY				PASTURE			
: Stocks on farms May 1				: Condition May 1				: Condition May 1			
State :Average :				:Average:				:Average:			
:1929-38 : 1939 : 1940				:1929-38: 1939 : 1940				:1929-38: 1939 : 1940			
Thousand tons				Percent				Percent			
Me.	116	132	111	87	83	89	84	78	84		
N.H.	47	45	36	88	82	89	84	80	84		
Vt.	91	100	80	88	82	89	87	79	85		
Mass.	56	52	36	87	85	85	84	87	82		
R.I.	5	3	4	86	85	83	80	74	76		
Conn.	46	63	25	86	89	84	83	33	80		
N.Y.	577	660	275	79	82	73	77	79	71		
N.J.	52	67	44	81	83	76	80	80	70		
Pa.	404	527	267	79	84	76	77	81	72		
Ohio	360	595	358	78	83	81	76	80	73		
Ind.	314	604	327	77	82	81	77	81	76		
Ill.	443	948	629	76	84	82	76	81	77		
Mich.	362	598	413	77	86	80	71	80	70		
Wis.	484	1,064	731	78	82	82	75	81	73		
Minn.	515	1,232	797	74	82	77	70	77	70		
Iowa	455	920	644	76	80	81	76	80	78		
Mo.	313	656	470	74	81	77	75	80	73		
N.Dak.	206	446	350	62	65	68	56	61	63		
S.Dak.	206	457	340	70	63	75	66	63	70		
Nebr.	400	817	268	77	73	70	73	70	64		
Kans.	180	361	115	73	76	74	67	69	62		
Del.	10	14	8	79	87	80	76	84	74		
Md.	64	90	63	77	87	76	75	85	71		
Va.	131	197	120	78	84	76	78	83	69		
W.Va.	76	114	73	79	79	75	76	75	69		
N.C.	128	237	238	78	79	76	79	80	72		
S.C.	82	127	134	67	73	69	72	76	65		
Ga.	101	171	125	72	77	66	77	79	68		
Fla.	13	17	12	71	72	73	76	75	76		
Ky.	237	385	225	79	82	77	78	80	70		
Tenn.	260	508	251	77	80	73	78	79	67		
Ala.	124	206	145	69	73	64	77	80	68		
Miss.	137	279	236	71	74	68	77	78	69		
Ark.	159	220	187	76	78	76	80	80	76		
La.	40	36	34	73	75	78	77	80	79		
Okla.	103	216	68	70	69	71	68	69	66		
Tex.	144	220	192	69	67	71	74	66	72		
Mont.	219	303	686	79	84	38	71	81	87		
Idaho	199	337	250	86	90	94	82	32	94		
Wyo.	157	207	164	85	86	86	79	81	84		
Colo.	232	385	163	82	89	84	70	83	73		
N.Mex.	32	40	36	81	80	82	63	86	80		
Ariz.	34	50	72	89	87	79	88	86	79		
Utah	82	112	72	84	85	92	79	79	89		
Nev.	47	94	83	82	91	83	82	86	95		
Wash.	135	209	231	83	85	94	78	79	94		
Oreg.	160	296	286	85	83	94	82	78	95		
Calif.	287	460	391	83	82	88	73	67	92		
U.S.	9,032	16,377	10,865	78	81	80	74	76	74		

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